

Working for you

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURAL SERVICES
COUNCILLOR FOR STRAY WARD**

COUNCILLOR MRS PAT JONES

23 Fulwith Drive

HARROGATE

HG2 8HW

Tel/Fax: (01423) 872466

Email: cllr.pat.jones.hbc@toshiba-connect.co.uk

7 May 2008

Mr Grandison
9 Park Street
Ripon
HG4 2AX

Dear Mr Grandison,

I write in response to your recent e-mail communication with our Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the content of which has been forwarded on to me.

The contents of the draft MOU you attached would appear to present some specific issues about deliverability but as most of these have been addressed in my previous correspondence in response to your group's petition presented to Council, I will not take too much further time in reiterating those here.

What I will explain once again is the Council's position on this matter.

The Borough Council debated the issues around the Ripon Spa Baths at it's meeting in December 2007. At that meeting the Borough Council decided that, subject to consultation with the City Council, to proceed with plans to develop a new pool in Ripon and to move forward with plans to re-develop the Spa Baths site for housing. The reasoning behind those decisions are clear and have been well rehearsed in previous correspondence however I will reiterate.


We have always stated our preparedness to consider other options for development of the Spa Baths site provided an appropriate level of capital receipt was realised in order to allow the new pool project to proceed. This formed the basis of the presentation to the City Council meeting on 7th January 2008 where the City Council passed two motions. The first supported the implementation of Option 3 of the Cabinet report dated December 2007 (new build at Camp Close) and the second requested protection of the façade and pump room as well as further consultation. The project to date has therefore been developed in accordance with the wishes of both Councils.

The course of action which the partnership proposes is directly opposed to the Borough Council's decision. Although the partnership are entitled to lobby against the decision, it stands until Council says otherwise. Also as they stand presently, the partnership's objectives and the Council's decision contradict each other. We are bound by the decision in Council and as such the Borough Council cannot join the partnership.

As I stated in my earlier response to your petition, the Borough Council is continuing to engage in dialogue towards alternative development of the Ripon Spa site, however any such development must achieve a substantial capital receipt in order to fund the new pool. Similarly maintaining two separate leisure facilities in Ripon is not sustainable in the face of severe pressures on local government finance.

Whilst your group maintains a position which is based on misinterpretation of the facts and realities of the situation and adopts a position in direct conflict with a Council decision, then there is no prospect of the Borough Council joining the partnership.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PAT JONES
Cabinet Member (Cultural Services)

I will in response to your e-mail continue to work with the legal and Democratic Services, the content of which has been forwarded on to me.

The content of the draft MOU you attached would appear to present some specific issues about development but as most of it has not been addressed in my previous correspondence in response to your group's petition presented to Council, I will not take too much further time in returning the matter.

What I will set out once again is the Council's position on this matter.

The Borough Council debated the issues around the Ripon Spa Baths at its meeting in December 2007. At that meeting the Borough Council decided that, subject to consultation with the City Council, to proceed with plans to develop a new pool in Ripon and to move forward with plans to re-develop the Spa Baths site for housing. The reasoning behind those decisions are clear and have been well rehearsed in previous correspondence however I will reiterate.

We have always stated our preparedness to consider other options for development of the Spa Baths site provided an appropriate level of capital receipt was realised in order to allow the new pool to proceed. This formed the basis of the presentation to the City Council meeting on 7 January 2008 where the City Council passed two motions (the first regarding the implementation of Option 3 of the Cabinet report dated December 2007 (new build at Camp Green) and the second requested protection of the facade and pump room as well as further consultation. The project to date has therefore been developed in accordance with the wishes of both Councils.